

## REPORT

*Of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, in the case of  
Richard G. Morris.*

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JANUARY 5, 1824,

Read, and committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

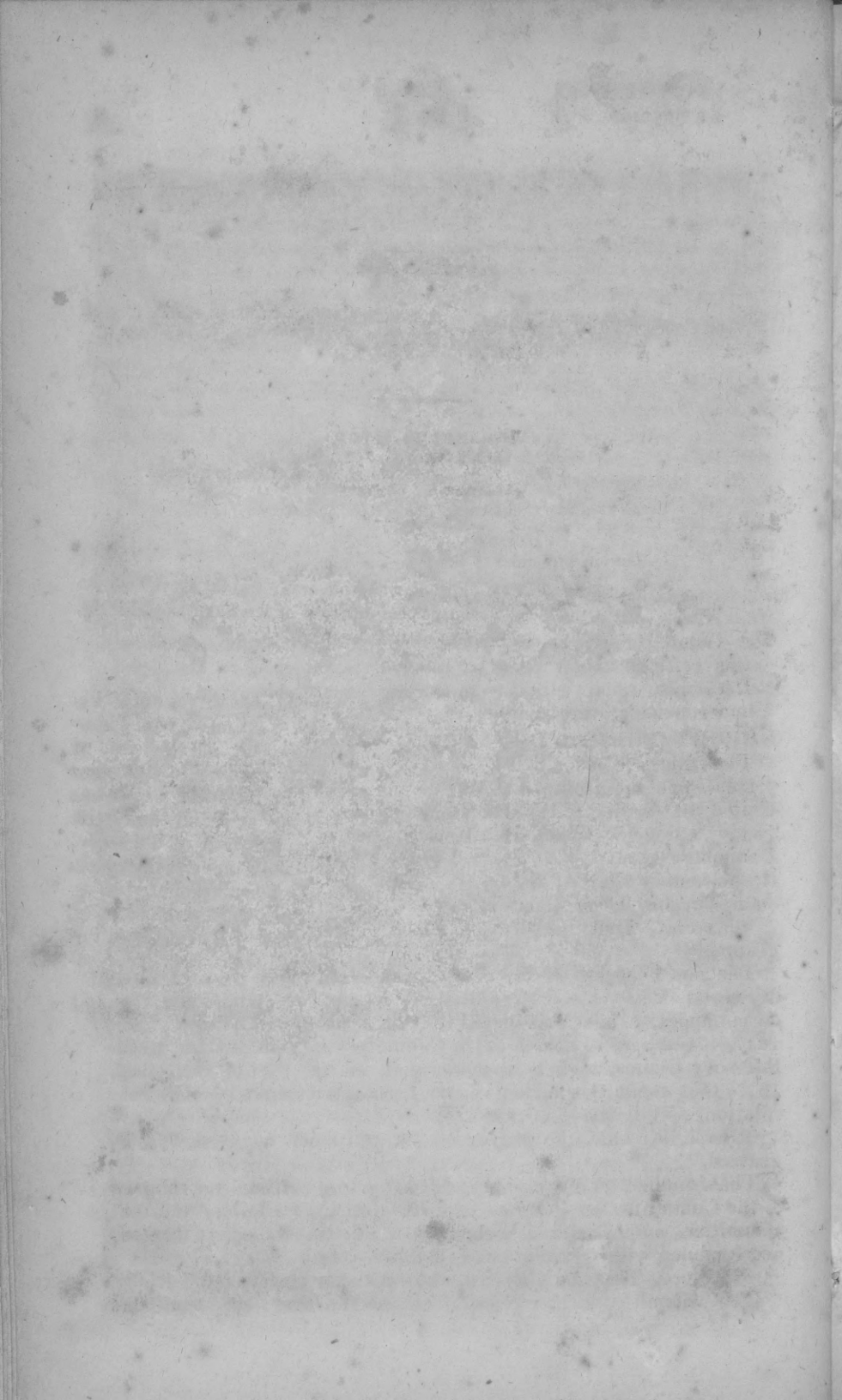
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The Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, to whom, on the 8th December, was referred the petition of Richard G. Morris, have had the same under consideration; and

### REPORT:

That the petitioner claims pay for two certificates in favor of his father, Henry Morris, deceased, both dated in 1781, and signed Timothy Pickering, Quartermaster General, amounting to the sum of \$ 565 45-90ths. The petitioner has frequently applied to Congress to pass a law authorizing the payment of said certificates, which has been uniformly refused, as will more fully appear from the report and annexed documents, made to the House the 29th of January, 1822; which report your committee ask to be taken and considered as a part of this report. No additional testimony has been offered to induce an opinion in your committee different from that heretofore expressed. They deem it unnecessary to enter more fully into detail of the merits of the claim, and submit for adoption the following resolution.

*Resolved,* That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.!



[To be annexed to the Report in the case of *Richard G. Morris*, made January 5, 1824.]

## REPORT

*Of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, in the case of Richard G. Morris.*

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JANUARY 29, 1822.

Read, and ordered to lie on the table.

MARCH 4, 1822.

Committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

DECEMBER 12, 1822.

Reprinted by order of the House of Representatives.

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The Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of *Richard G. Morris*, on the 6th of December, 1821, with accompanying papers, have had the same under consideration, and

### REPORT THEREON:

That this case of the petitioner has, heretofore, been several times presented in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, and referred to Committees on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, who reported thereon, that is to say: on the 25th December, 1815, it was referred to the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims; and that committee, on the 14th March, 1816, made a report thereon, accompanied with a resolution, as follows:

“Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.”

That, on February 11th, 1817, it was again referred to the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims; that that committee do not appear to have considered it. That, on the 4th of December, 1817, it was again referred to the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, and, it appears, that, on the 15th of December, 1817, that committee made a report thereon, accompanied with a resolution, as follows:

“Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.”

That, on the 21st of February, 1820, the said petition was referred to the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, and that committee, on the 25th of February, 1820, made a report thereon, accompanied with a resolution, as follows:

“Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner be rejected.”

This committee further report, that the two first abovementioned

reports were ordered to lie on the table of the House of Representatives, and that the last report of that committee was agreed to by the House. And this committee do respectfully request, that the said three preceding reports, and the resolutions accompanying them, be taken and made a part of this report; and that, in this report, the said three previous reports, above alluded to, may be taken, considered, and read, agreeably to their respective dates, as a part of this report, and be considered as inserted verbatim therein, and read accordingly.

This committee further report, that the petitioner, not content with the proceedings heretofore had on his petition, has again caused it to be presented to the House of Representatives; and, on 6th of December, 1821, it has again been referred to the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims.

That the petitioner exhibits two certificates, signed with the name of Tim. Pickering, one of which bears number 3,744, and is as follows: "I certify, that there is due from the United States, to Henry Morris, the sum of three hundred and forty-four dollars, specie, in part for his services, &c. as As. D. Q. M. with the Virginia army, from the 14th of November to 24th of May, 1781, which sum of three hundred and forty-four dollars shall be paid to the said Henry Morris, or order, in specie, or other current money equivalent, by the 24th day of June next; and if not then paid, the same shall afterwards bear an interest of six per cent. per annum, until paid. Witness my hand, this 30th day of May, A. D. 1781." Signed with the name "Tim. Pickering, Quartermaster General," and countersigned with the name "R. Claiborn, D. Q. M. Gen." The other of said certificates appears to be number 3,746, and is as follows: "I certify that there is due from the United States to Henry Morris, the sum of two hundred and twenty-one and a half dollars, for his services as A. D. Q. M. with the Virginia army, from 7th June to 6th October, 1781; which sum of two hundred and twenty-one and a half dollars shall be paid to the said Henry Morris, or order, in specie, or other current money equivalent, by the 10th day of November next; and, if not then paid, the same shall afterwards bear an interest of six per cent. per annum until paid. Witness my hand, this 12th day of October, A. D. 1781." Signed with the name "Tim. Pickering, Quartermaster General;" countersigned with the name, "R. Claiborn, D. Q. M. Gen."

This committee further report, that recourse has been had to the Department of the Treasury for information relative to the said two certificates; and a written report has been, in answer to said application, received from the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanied with a report of the Register of the Treasury, relative to said two certificates; and this committee respectfully request, that the said report from the Treasury Department, with the accompanying papers, may be taken as part of this report, and are hereby referred to. In that report, the Register of the Treasury states, that he has examined the records of the Treasury without being able to discover any evidence

whereby the two certificates in question are recognized as claims unpaid against the United States. He states that the signature of Timothy Pickering, he believes, is genuine; and, for himself, well recollects the signature of R. Claiborn; and that the value of said certificates, with interest to the 1st of January, 1822, amounts to 1,934 dollars 45 cents.

The Register of the Treasury also states, that R. Claiborn was a deputy quartermaster of the United States, and, at the same time, a deputy quartermaster of the state of Virginia; that he did exhibit some accounts to Mr. Burrill, the commissioner for adjusting the quartermaster and commissary accounts of the Revolution; but, in consequence of the accounts of the United States being so blended with those of the state of Virginia, it was impossible to make any settlement; and he states, that the said certificates comply with the first regulation prescribed by a resolution of Congress, of the 23d of August, 1780. The Register further remarks, that the only surviving person, having any knowledge of the fact, upon application to him for this purpose, states, that he has no recollection of any of the certificates, of the character of those in question, ever having been taken up by the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts between the several states and the United States, in the settlement with the state of Virginia.

By so much of the report of the Register as is above mentioned, it appears that there is not any evidence in the Department of the Treasury, whereby the two certificates in question are recognized as claims unpaid against the United States; and it appears by said report, that Richard Claiborn, a deputy quartermaster, never did settle his accounts with the United States; and that the only surviving person, having any knowledge of the fact, states, that he has no recollection of any of the certificates of the character of those in question, ever having been taken up by the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts between the several states and the United States, in the settlement with the state of Virginia. Hence, it is concluded, that the certificates in question are not evidence of any just claim against the United States, notwithstanding the name of Tim. Pickering, annexed to the said certificates, may have been signed thereto by Tim. Pickering himself.

That the Register closes his said report by adverting to a report made by the accounting officers of the Treasury, the 19th of January, 1795, No. 6,365, in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed the 12th of February, 1793, entitled "An act relative to claims against the United States, not barred by any act of limitation, and which have not already been adjusted;" in which report one hundred and twenty-four claims had been presented by persons whose names appear in the printed abstract published by order of Congress, and which were deemed by the accounting officers of the Treasury to be inadmissible. The same one hundred and twenty-four claims, thus stated to be inadmissible, for reasons assigned in the report, are arranged in fourteen classes. The second class has reference to certificates of the character of those in question, a copy of which is herewith trans-



mitted, and respectfully referred to and submitted, signed Joseph Nourse, Register, and directed to the Hon. William H. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, and by him transmitted. That the copy of the report of the accounting officers of the Treasury, accompanying the same report from the Treasury Department, and alluded to in that report of the Register to the Secretary of the Treasury, is as follows: "Class second. The five first mentioned claims of this class are founded on certificates signed also 'Timothy Pickering,' and countersigned by Benjamin Day, Daniel Tucker, Christopher Yates, and William Keese. Benjamin Day was an assistant to Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia, from whom, it appears, he received a number of blank certificates, but has rendered no account of their application. The certificate, No. 3,733, for which payment is now sought, is dated February 22d, 1790, many years after he was out of office. Tucker, Yates, and Keese, were assistants to Hugh Hughes. No account of the transactions of either of them is in the Treasury. It is said their papers were burnt, with those of their principal. The sixth is founded on a manuscript certificate, signed Thomas H. Drew, who was an assistant to Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia. No document is in the Treasury by which it can be checked. Besides, by the regulations of the 23d of August, 1780, certificates of this description were not considered binding on the public. The last claim of this class stands in the name of James Pierce; part of it is founded on a certificate signed "Timothy Pickering," and which appears to have been issued by Thomas Hamilton, an assistant to Richard Claiborn, but no return has been made of it. The remainder is for a balance of an account current, certified by William S. Mumford, the 5th day of June, 1785, in which the said Pierce makes a charge of pay as an assistant commissary of issues at the post of Richmond, from the 1st of April, 1779, to the 30th of November, 1780, and of sundry disbursements unsupported by vouchers. No documents are in the Treasury by which this account can be checked. It appears, moreover, liable to other objections, amongst which, it is found that he has had a settlement for pay as a forage master, from the 1st of May to the 31st of December, 1780, a period which embraces a great portion of the time he states to have been a commissary."

This committee further report, that, by the said copy of the report of the accounting officers of the Treasury, relative to the second class of claims therein mentioned, it appears that Benjamin Day was also an assistant to Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia, from whom it appears that he received a number of blank certificates, signed, also, "Timothy Pickering," but that he has rendered no account of their application. That the cases mentioned in that part of the report of the accounting officers of the Treasury have a strong bearing on this case of the petitioner, inasmuch as the certificates in question may have been issued in blank, as well as those put into the hands of Benjamin Day, his assistant, by Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general, of which no

return appears to have been made of their application. Besides, there is not any evidence in the Treasury Department recognizing the certificates in question, as claims unpaid against the United States, and so far as can be ascertained at this late period, the only surviving person having any knowledge of the fact, states that he has no recollection of any of the certificates, of the character of those in question, ever having been taken up by the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts between the several states and the United States, in the settlement with the state of Virginia: hence may be inferred, that claims bottomed on certificates of the character of the certificates in question were not considered as claims against the United States. Besides, the certificates in question appear to be countersigned by R. Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general, not deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia: hence may be inferred, that the certificates in question, are also inadmissible, as were the certificates in the said second class, above alluded to, declared to be inadmissible.

This committee further report, that, on the 23d of August, 1780, Congress "Resolved that the quartermaster general and commissary general be, and are hereby, strictly enjoined to make monthly returns of their purchases and proceedings to the Board of War, and make monthly returns, to wit: on the last day of every month, to the Board of Treasury, of all certificates so issued as aforesaid;" and it does not appear that the certificates in question were so returned; neither is there any testimony on the records of the Treasury, recognizing them as claims unpaid against the United States; and it will not be presumed, that the acting quartermaster general was so ignorant of his duty, or so remiss in the performance of it, as to neglect to render an account of the certificates in question, pursuant to the said resolution of the 23d of August, 1780, if he had known that the said certificates had been issued, or that they were obligatory on the United States; and hence may be inferred, that the certificates in question are also inadmissible, as were the certificates mentioned in the second class, stated in the report of the accounting officers of the Treasury, above alluded to, and that the said certificates ought not now to be admitted as evidence of claims against the United States. That not any evidence has been produced, to manifest that the appointment of Henry Morris, as an assistant deputy quartermaster, or that the pay for his services, as stated in the said certificates, were approved by the quartermaster general, as directed to be done by the resolution of Congress of the 15th of July, 1780. That the compensation allowed to said Henry Morris, as stated in the said certificates, for his services as an assistant deputy quartermaster, does not appear to be conformable to the fifth regulation contained in the resolution of Congress of the 23d of August, 1780. That it does not appear, by any evidence produced to this committee, that the appointment of Henry Morris to be an assistant deputy quartermaster to Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general, was returned to the Board of War, by the quartermaster general, pursuant to

the said resolution of Congress, of the 15th of July, 1780. That it does not appear, that the quartermaster general returned Henry Morris, as a person employed in the quartermaster department, to the Commander in Chief, or to the Board of War, or that he was qualified to act as an assistant deputy quartermaster, under authority of the United States, pursuant to said resolution of Congress, of the 15th July, 1780. The inference from this is, that this claim of the petitioner, bottomed on the two certificates in question, ought not to be allowed against the United States: nevertheless, Henry Morris may have been an assistant deputy quartermaster to Richard Claiborn, acting as a deputy quartermaster under the authority of the state of Virginia. That on the said 15th July, 1780, Congress "Resolved, that Major General Green be continued in the office of quartermaster general; that he be, and is hereby, directed to make the appointments and arrangements in the quartermaster department, agreeably to the foregoing resolutions, as soon as possible." That it may here be observed, that, on the 15th of July, 1780, Congress, among other things, "Resolved, that the quartermaster general appoint one deputy for each state, if he shall judge so many to be necessary, and the same be approved by the Board of War; the person appointed to be approved by the supreme executive of the state in which he is to be employed." "That each deputy, whether appointed for one state or more, shall appoint as many assistants as the service may necessarily require, and the quartermaster general may approve; and a return of such appointments shall be immediately made to the Board of War, by the quartermaster general;" and, in that resolution of the 15th of July, 1780, Congress prescribed the duties of a deputy quartermaster, among which the following are enumerated, to wit: "To execute all orders, either for purchases or other purposes, which he may receive from the Commander in Chief, the Board of War, the quartermaster general, or the commanding officer in the state; to pay all officers, in the different parts of the state, who shall be necessary to execute the business of the department, and who have been approved of, as aforesaid; to apply to the assistant quartermaster general for such sums of money as the service may require, and to distribute the same in such proportion as will best answer the purpose." That if Henry Morris was an assistant deputy quartermaster, acting under Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia, under authority of the United States, it was a duty of Richard Claiborn to have paid the amount of the certificates in question to Henry Morris, his assistant, pursuant to the command of the said resolution; and for making such payment, and all other payments necessary in the business of the department under his direction, he was directed to apply to the assistant quartermaster general for such sums of money as the service might require; and if the said certificates were not paid, pursuant to the said positive directions, by Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia, it may be inferred that the said certificates ought not to be admitted as evidence of claim against the United States, inasmuch as, if they had so been,



they would have been paid, pursuant to said resolution. That the regulations prescribed in and by the resolution of Congress, of the 23d of August, 1780, require, "that the quartermaster general, and commissary general, shall themselves sign all such certificates as are issued in their respective departments." That a certificate ready to be signed, pursuant to the said regulation, is complete, without any blank; and the statement of claims enumerated in the second class of certificates heretofore alluded to, bears on the certificates in question to shew that they ought not to be allowed, and if they were valid and unpaid, no reason is assigned to shew why they were not presented to, and paid by, Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster for the state of Virginia; nevertheless, the said certificates may have been claims against the state of Virginia. That the resolutions of Congress, of the 23d of August, 1780, require that certificates be signed by the quartermaster general, but do not require that they be countersigned by the deputy quartermaster; but in this case it appears, that the said certificates are countersigned "R. Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general;" and Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general, has, by so countersigning the said certificates, changed their character from that required by the said resolution of the 23d of August, 1780; hence may be inferred, that the certificates in question ought not to be admitted as evidence of claim against the United States, inasmuch as they do not appear in the form and character prescribed by the said resolution of Congress, but in a character not authorized by said resolution, and therefore ought to be deemed invalid. That, on the 23d of August, 1780, Congress resolved that no certificates issued in the quartermaster's and commissary's departments, after the fifteenth day of September next, afford any claim against the United States, unless issued under the following regulations, one of which is, as was before alluded to, "that the quartermaster general and commissary general shall themselves sign all such certificates as are issued in their respective departments." This resolution, in justice to the United States, required the quartermaster general to sign, not by deputy, but by himself, all such certificates as were issued in his department; this provision, it is believed, intended that the quartermaster general himself shall inspect all accounts, and adjust the same, previous to giving a certificate for the amount appearing due, otherwise the regulation alluded to can have no just meaning in respect to the Treasury of the United States. It appears, by the report above alluded to, that blank certificates, signed "Timothy Pickering," it is presumed, were in the hands of Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general, and of some of his assistants; and the certificates in question may have been of that character, and therefore were not returned, as required by resolutions of Congress. That that part of the report of the accounting officers of the Treasury above alluded to, shows that blank certificates were also in the hands of some, if not all, of the assistants of Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general, and it is presumed that they filled them up as they thought proper, and also countersigned them, which the

said assistants were not authorized to do. That, in the fifth regulation stated in the resolution of Congress of the 23d of August, 1780, reference is made to the year 1775. On the 29th of July, 1775, Congress, by resolution, fixed the pay of their officers, and, among other things, "Resolved, that a quartermaster be paid eighteen dollars and one-third per month." In this case, the petitioner claims three hundred and forty-four dollars, in specie, or other current money equivalent, for services performed by Henry Morris, assistant deputy quartermaster with the Virginia army, from the 14th November to 24th May, 1781, being six months and ten days, as stated in certificate No. 3,744. The amount of pay monthly is not stated, but a sum in gross, which amounts to more than fifty dollars per month, and may be nearly three times as much as was allowed to a quartermaster by the resolution of the 29th July, 1775; and hence it would appear, that the equitable intent of the regulation above alluded to, was infringed, inasmuch as both payments were to have been made in specie; the same is applicable to the other certificate. It is also remarkable, that the three hundred and forty-four dollars are stated to be in part pay for the services of Henry Morris, assistant deputy quartermaster, in the time mentioned in certificate No. 3,744; what that other part of his pay for his services performed in the said time stated in the said certificate, to which the sum of three hundred and forty-four dollars allowed to him in said certificate is an addition, is not stated, and it is strange that the certificate for that part of the pay for his said services, performed in the said time, is not also produced and claimed for; no reason is stated by the petitioner why it is not produced, and hence may an inference be made, not favorable to the claim of the petitioner, and going to shew that it ought not to be admitted against the United States. On the 23d of October, 1782, Congress "Resolved, that the pay per month of the officers in the quartermaster's department, including their pay in the line of the army, shall be as follows: quartermaster general, &c. assistants in the quartermaster's department, each, thirty dollars per month." That this allowance of pay corresponds with the fifth regulation stated in the resolution of Congress of the 23d of August, 1780, in the just construction thereof, in reference to the year 1775, as declared in the resolution of Congress of the 29th of July, 1775. That the fifth regulation stated in the resolution of Congress of the 23d of August, 1780, is as follows: "The articles so purchased shall be enumerated in such certificates, with the rates and prices thereof, and the prices shall be reasonable when the present circumstances of our affairs are compared with the cost of articles of like quality, or services performed, in the year 1775, or when compared with the allowance by Congress to the United States, as expressed in the resolution of the 25th of February last." That the particular service of, or the quantity of pay per month allowed to, Henry Morris, as assistant deputy quartermaster, are not stated, whereby an estimate of the reasonableness of the pay allowed in addition to the other part of the pay allowed to the said Henry Morris, assistant deputy quartermaster, for the same services in the

same time by him performed, might or could have been made; that the amount of that first part of pay allowed to Henry Morris, assistant deputy quartermaster, for his services alluded to, is not stated; hence, it is inferred, that the claim of the petitioner ought not to be allowed; that it appears, by the records in the Treasury Department, that Richard Claiborn was a deputy quartermaster of the United States, and, at the same time, a deputy quartermaster of the state of Virginia; that he did exhibit some accounts to Mr. Burrill, the commissioner for adjusting the quartermaster and commissary accounts of the Revolution; but, in consequence of the accounts of the United States being so blended with those of the state of Virginia, it was impossible to make any settlement; that it may here again be observed, that Richard Claiborn did not countersign the said certificates as a deputy quartermaster of the United States, but as deputy quartermaster, meaning, it is presumed, deputy quartermaster of the state of Virginia. In this point of view, the certificates in question are not evidence of any just claim against the United States: that it also appears, by the records of the Treasury Department, that Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster of the United States, has not settled his accounts with the United States; and that, therefore, the certificate in question ought not to be admitted as evidence of claim against the United States; for Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster for the state of Virginia, may have received, from the assistant quartermaster general, money sufficient to have paid them.

That Henry Morris is stated to have been an assistant deputy quartermaster to Richard Claiborn; he is therefore presumed to have been well acquainted with the rules and regulations prescribed by Congress for the quartermaster department; and if he did not apply to his principal for payment, there is not any reason assigned for that neglect. Richard Claiborn, if acting as deputy quartermaster of the United States, was, by the resolution of Congress, heretofore alluded to, directed to pay him, and it was a duty enjoined on him so to do; and it was incumbent on, and a duty that Henry Morris, if an assistant deputy quartermaster to him, acting under authority of the United States, owed to himself, to have called on his said principal for payment; and, if he did not, the petitioner ought not now to have a claim admitted against the United States, which, if it has not heretofore been settled and paid, is to be ascribed to the neglect of Henry Morris himself, who is stated to have been an assistant deputy quartermaster under Richard Claiborn, and is presumed to have fully known all the regulations of the quartermaster department.

That Henry Morris is stated to have lived until the year 1810; and he being stated to have been an assistant deputy quartermaster, is presumed to have been well acquainted with all the rules and regulations of that department, and that it was his duty to have applied to his principal, if he was an officer in the staff of the army of the United States, or to the proper officer, for payment of said certificates, if they were just, against the United States. Mr. Timothy Pickering was for several years an officer of this Government, and after-

wards was for several years a member of Congress, and in all that time it does not appear that the said certificates were presented, or any demand made for payment thereof. The petitioner states, they were mislaid by his father; but it appears that his father lived about thirty years after the year 1780, and it will not be presumed that he would neglect, all that time, a claim of such magnitude, if he had deemed it proper to to pursue it; besides, it cannot be presumed, that a man will be so ignorant of his own business, and so careless, as to have mislaid the evidence of a claim of such importance if he considers it right and just. This committee further report, that they concur in opinion with the several committees who heretofore have reported on this case, and have not any reason to reverse the decisions made by them; and, further, that it is inexpedient to make any provision by law for this claim of the petitioner. That the petitioner has not in this case a just claim against the United States; and furthermore, that if, by any possibility, the petitioner could have had any claim, bottomed on the said certificates produced to this committee, it is long since barred by statutes of limitation; and therefore submit the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner be rejected.

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WASHINGTON, 25th December, 1821.

SIR : I am directed by the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims to submit to you the petition and accompanying papers of Richard G. Morris, to obtain such information as can be had in the Treasury Department relative thereto. This case has often been before Congress, and referred to committees, and reported against. The committee request to be informed whether the accompanying certificates are recognized on the records of that Department; of what value are said certificates, if genuine; who was R. Claiborn, whose name appears countersigned to said certificates? Was he a deputy quartermaster, as the letters annexed to the name import; and, if so, did he finally settle all his accounts? Does it appear that a valuable consideration, on behalf of the United States, was received for said certificates? with any other information relative thereto.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN RHEA.

Hon. WM. H. CRAWFORD,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

January 7, 1822.

SIR : I have the honor to return the papers which were transmitted by you with the petition of Richard G. Morris, together with the report of the Register of the Treasury, which contains all the informa-

tion in possession of the Department, relative to the case of the petitioner.

I remain, with respect, your most obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

*The Hon. JOHN RHEA,*

*Chairman Committee of Revolutionary Pensions, &c.*

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**

*Register's Office, 7th January, 1822.*

The Register has the honor to report to the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to the questions propounded by the Honorable the Chairman of the Committee of Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, on the petition of Richard G. Morris, of the state of Virginia, representative of Henry Morris, praying the payment of two certificates, viz. No. 3744, in favor of Henry Morris, for \$ 344, and No. 3746, in favor of Henry Morris, for \$ 221 45, signed by Timothy Pickering, quartermaster general, and countersigned by R. Claiborn, deputy quartermaster, S. V.

1st. Whether the accompanying certificates are recognized on the records of the Treasury Department?

The Register, in reply to this question, begs leave to report, that he has examined the records of the Treasury, without being able to discover any evidence whereby the two certificates in question are recognized as claims, unpaid, against the United States.

2d. Of what value are said certificates, if genuine?

The Register, in reply to this question, confirms the opinion given in the documents accompanying said petition, by the most respectable characters, that the signature of Timothy Pickering to each of these certificates is the genuine signature of said Pickering; and the Register, for himself, well recollects the signature of R. Claiborn. The value of said certificates, with interest, calculated to the 1st of January, 1822, is \$ 1,934 45, viz:

One certificate for \$ 344, with interest from the			
29th June, 1781, say, principal	-	\$ 344	00
Interest to the 1st day of January, 1822	-	-	836 00
			<hr/> 1,180 00
One certificate for \$ 221 45, with interest from			
the 10th November, 1781, say, principal	-	221	45
Interest to the 1st January, 1822	-	-	533 00
			<hr/> 754 45
Making			<hr/> <hr/> \$ 1,934 45

3d. Who was R. Claiborn, whose name appears countersigned to said certificates? Was he a deputy quartermaster, as the letters annexed to his name import? and, if so, did he finally settle all his accounts?



The Register, in reply to this question, begs leave to report, that R. Claiborn was a deputy quartermaster of the United States, and, at the same time, a deputy quartermaster of the state of Virginia; that he did exhibit some accounts to Mr. Burrill, the commissioner for adjusting the quartermaster and commissary accounts of the Revolution, but, in consequence of the accounts of the United States being so blended with those of the state of Virginia, it was impossible to make any settlement.

4th. Does it appear that valuable consideration, on behalf of the United States, was received for said certificates? with any other information relative thereto.

The Register, in reply to this question, begs leave to remark, that, by the regulations of the quartermaster's department, of the 23d August, 1780, the certificates in question have the aspect of having been issued under the general provisions in relation to the department of the quartermaster general, predicated upon a letter from Col. Pickering, quartermaster general, and respectfully referred to in page 170, vol. 6, of the Journals of Congress. The said certificates comply with the first regulation:

1. They express the special service performed.
2. They are given for specie value.
3. They are signed by the quartermaster general, though the said regulation does not require certificates to be signed by a deputy.
4. They bear an interest, a provision also made by said regulation, provided not paid at the time limited.

The Register further remarks, that the only surviving person having any knowledge of the fact, upon application to him for this purpose, states that he has no recollection of any of the certificates, of the character of those in question, ever having been taken up by the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts between the several states and the United States, in the settlement with the state of Virginia.

The Register begs leave to close this report by adverting to a report made by the accounting officers of the Treasury, the 19th January, 1795, No. 6365, in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed the 12th February, 1793, entitled "An act relative to claims against the United States, not barred by any act of limitation, and which have not already been adjusted," in which report 124 claims had been presented by persons whose names appear in the printed abstract, published by order of Congress, and which were deemed, by the accounting officers of the Treasury, to be inadmissible.

The said 124 claims, thus stated to be inadmissible, for reasons assigned in the report, are arranged in fourteen classes. The second class has reference to certificates of the character of those in question, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, and respectfully referred to.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH NOURSE, *Register.*

Hon. WM. H. CRAWFORD,

*Secretary of the Treasury.*

*Class Second.*

“The five first mentioned claims of this class are founded on certificates signed also “Timothy Pickering,” and countersigned by Benjamin Day, Daniel Tucker, Christopher Yates, and William Keese. Benjamin Day was an assistant to Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia, from whom it appears he received a number of blank certificates, but has rendered no account of their application. The certificate No. 3733, for which payment is now sought, is dated February 22d, 1790, many years after he was out of office. Tucker, Yates, and Keese, were assistants to Hugh Hughes. No account of the transactions of either of them is in the Treasury. It is said their papers were burnt, with those of their principal.

“The *sixth* is founded on a manuscript certificate, signed Thomas H. Drew, who was an assistant to Richard Claiborn, deputy quartermaster general for the state of Virginia. No document is in the Treasury by which it can be checked; besides, by the regulations of the 23d August, 1780, certificates of this description were not considered as binding on the public. The last claim of this class stands in the name of James Price; part of it is founded on a certificate signed “Timothy Pickering,” and which appears to have been issued by Thomas Hamilton, an assistant to Richard Claiborn; but no return has been made of it. The remainder is for the balance of an account current, certified by William G. Mumford, the 5th day of June, 1785, in which the said Price makes a charge of pay as an assistant commissary of issues at the post of Richmond, from the 1st of April, 1779, to the 30th of November, 1780, and of sundry disbursements, unsupported by vouchers. No documents are in the Treasury by which this account can be checked. It appears, moreover, liable to other objections, amongst which it is found he has had a settlement for pay as forage master, from the 1st May to the 31st December, 1780, a period which embraces a great portion of the time he states to have been a commissary.”

